



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R4-ES-2022-N064; FXES11140400000-223-FF04E00000]

Endangered Species; Recovery Permit Applications

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of permit applications; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, have received applications for permits, permit renewals, and/or permit amendments to conduct activities intended to enhance the propagation or survival of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. We invite the public and local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies to comment on these applications. Before issuing any of the requested permits, we will take into consideration any information that we receive during the public comment period.

DATES: We must receive written data or comments on the applications by [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

ADDRESSES: *Reviewing Documents:* Submit requests for copies of applications and other information submitted with the applications to Karen Marlowe (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**). All requests and comments should specify the applicant name and application number (e.g., Mary Smith, ESPER0001234).

Submitting Comments: If you wish to comment, you may submit comments by one of the following methods:

- *Email (preferred method):* permitsR4ES@fws.gov. Please include your name and return address in your email message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that we have received your email message, contact us directly at the telephone number listed in **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

- *U.S. mail:* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Office, Ecological Services, 1875 Century Boulevard, Atlanta, GA 30345 (Attn: Karen Marlowe, Permit Coordinator).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Marlowe, Permit Coordinator, 404-679-7097 (telephone) or *karen_marlowe@fws.gov* (email). Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite review and comment from the public and local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies on applications we have received for permits to conduct certain activities with endangered and threatened species under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and our regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 50 CFR part 17. Documents and other information submitted with the applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (5 U.S.C. 552a) and the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552).

Background

With some exceptions, the ESA prohibits take of listed species unless a Federal permit is issued that authorizes such take. The ESA's definition of "take" includes hunting, shooting, harming, wounding, or killing, and also such activities as pursuing, harassing, trapping, capturing, or collecting.

A recovery permit issued by us under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA authorizes the permittee to take endangered or threatened species while engaging in activities that are conducted for scientific purposes that promote recovery of species or for enhancement of propagation or survival of species. These activities often include the

capture and collection of species, which would result in prohibited take if a permit were not issued. Our regulations implementing section 10(a)(1)(A) for these permits are found at 50 CFR 17.22 for endangered wildlife species, 50 CFR 17.32 for threatened wildlife species, 50 CFR 17.62 for endangered plant species, and 50 CFR 17.72 for threatened plant species.

Permit Applications Available for Review and Comment

The ESA requires that we invite public comment before issuing these permits. Accordingly, we invite local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies, and the public to submit written data, views, or arguments with respect to these applications. The comments and recommendations that will be most useful and likely to influence agency decisions are those supported by quantitative information or studies. Proposed activities in the following permit requests are for the recovery and enhancement of propagation or survival of the species in the wild.

Permit Application Number	Applicant	Species	Location	Activity	Type of Take	Permit Action
ES03305C-1	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District; Memphis, TN	Chipola slabshell (<i>Elliptio chipolaensis</i>), clubshell (<i>Pleurobema clava</i>), Curtis pearlymussel (<i>Epioblasma florentina curtisii</i>), fanshell (<i>Cyprogenia stegaria</i>), fat pocketbook (<i>Potamilus capax</i>), fat threeridge (<i>Amblema neislerii</i>), Higgins eye (<i>Lampsilis higginsii</i>), inflated heelsplitter (<i>Potamilus inflatus</i>), Louisiana pearlshell (<i>Margaritifera hembeli</i>), northern riffleshell (<i>Epioblasma rangiana</i>), orangefoot pimpleback (<i>Plethobasus cooperianus</i>), Ouachita rock pocketbook (<i>Arcidens wheeleri</i>), oval pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema pyriforme</i>), ovate clubshell (<i>Pleurobema perovatum</i>), pink mucket (<i>Lampsilis abrupta</i>), purple bankclimber (<i>Elliptoideus sloatianus</i>), rabbitsfoot (<i>Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica</i>), rayed bean (<i>Villosa fabalis</i>), ring pink (<i>Obovaria retusa</i>), rough pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema plenum</i>), scaleshell (<i>Leptodea leptodon</i>), sheepnose (<i>Plethobasus cyphyus</i>), snuffbox (<i>Epioblasma triquetra</i>), southern clubshell (<i>Pleurobema decisum</i>), spectaclecase (<i>Cumberlandia monodonta</i>), white wartyback (<i>Plethobasus cicatricosus</i>), and	Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee, and Wisconsin	Presence/probable absence surveys	Capture, handle, identify, and release	Renewal and amendment

		winged mapleleaf (<i>Quadrula fragosa</i>)				
ES55292B-3	University of Florida; Gainesville, FL	Everglade snail kite (<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus</i>)	Florida	Demographic and movement studies, genetic analyses, and avian vacuolar myelinopathy research	Install cameras at nests and collect deceased individuals, unviable eggs, and eggshells	Amendment
ES011542-11	Conservation Fisheries, Inc.; Knoxville, TN	Barrens topminnow (<i>Fundulus julisia</i>)	Tennessee	Presence/probable absence surveys	Capture, handle, identify, and release	Amendment
PER0055231-0	Matthew A. Bolton; Gainesville, GA	Fishes: amber darter (<i>Percina antesella</i>), blue shiner (<i>Cyprinella caerulea</i>), Cherokee darter (<i>Etheostoma scotti</i>), Conasauga logperch (<i>Percina jenkinsi</i>), Etowah darter (<i>Etheostoma etowahae</i>), goldline darter (<i>Percina aurolineata</i>), snail darter (<i>Percina tanasi</i>), and trispot darter (<i>Etheostoma trisella</i>); Mussels: Alabama moccasinshell (<i>Medionidus acutissimus</i>), Altamaha spinymussel (<i>Elliptio spinosa</i>), Atlantic pigtoe (<i>Fusconaia masoni</i>), Coosa moccasinshell (<i>Medionidus parvulus</i>), fat threeridge (<i>Amblema neislerii</i>), finelined pocketbook (<i>Hamiota altilis</i>), Georgia pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema hanleyianum</i>), Gulf moccasinshell (<i>Medionidus penicillatus</i>), Ochlockonee moccasinshell (<i>Medionidus</i>	Georgia	Presence/probable absence surveys	Fishes: Capture, handle, identify, and release; Mussels: Remove from substrate, handle, identify, release, and salvage relic shells	New

		<i>simpsonianus</i>), ovate clubshell <i>(Pleurobema perovatum)</i> , oval pigtoe <i>(Pleurobema pyriforme)</i> , purple bankclimber <i>(Elliptoideus</i> <i>sloatianus)</i> , shinyrayed pocketbook <i>(Hamiota subangulata)</i> , southern acornshell <i>(Epioblasma</i> <i>othcaloogensis)</i> , southern clubshell <i>(Pleurobema decisum)</i> , southern pigtoe <i>(Pleurobema georgianum)</i> , Suwannee moccasinshell <i>(Medionidus walkeri)</i> , and triangular kidneyshell <i>(Ptychobranhus greenii)</i>				
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Public Availability of Comments

Written comments we receive become part of the administrative record associated with this action. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Next Steps

If we decide to issue a permit to an applicant listed in this notice, we will publish a notice in the Federal Register.

Authority

We publish this notice under section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

John Tirpak,
Deputy Assistant Regional Director,
Ecological Services,
Southeast Region.

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